



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**July 7, 2005**

For immediate release

- 1. Open feedlot rules, water quality standards on July 18 EPC agenda**
- 2. DNR to improve permitting process for building animal confinement operations**

## **OPEN FEEDLOT RULES, WATER QUALITY STANDARDS ON JULY 18 EPC AGENDA**

DES MOINES – The DNR will propose emergency rules for open feedlots at the July 18 meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission.

“We’ve been working with the Iowa Cattlemen’s Association getting input as we develop rules to implement new legislation for open feedlots,” said Gene Tinker, the coordinator of the DNR animal feeding operations program.

Tinker added that the new rules will mean cattlemen with open feedlots do not have to meet the same design standards that confinements must meet. “We’re proposing these rules on an emergency basis because we have some feedlot operators, particularly those using alternative technologies, who want to know what standards they have to meet during construction,” he said.

At the same time, the DNR will take open feedlot rules through the normal rulemaking process ensuring that producers and other stakeholders will have a chance to comment.

The DNR will also provide information about a rule proposal that would change water quality standards for streams with very low flows. If approved, those changes will protect all perennial streams and perennial pooled streams for primary recreational use and for aquatic life use where appropriate.



In other action, commissioners will be asked to move forward with a rule proposal for a method to determine the appropriate levels of protection for warm water streams. This proposal redefines two existing categories and adds a third category of warm water streams, one that protects perennial pooled streams.

The EPC will also be asked to approve a contract that would compare current solid waste contents with contents found in 1998. If approved, the contract will help determine the effectiveness of local programs designed to reduce waste. Results of the project will allow the DNR to work with local waste agencies to target specific waste streams and reduce them.

Following a short presentation, the annual intended use plans for both the clean water and the drinking water state revolving funds will be proposed.

The commission will meet at 9:30 a.m. instead of their usual meeting time. The meeting will be held at the DNR Air Quality Office, 7900 Hickman Road in Urbandale. Public participation is scheduled for 11 a.m. The meeting is open to the public.

The complete agenda follows:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Director's Remarks
- Contract – R.W. Beck, Inc. – Statewide Waste Characterization Study
- Contract – Des Moines Area Community College – Initiate and Operate an Onsite Wastewater Training Center
- Environmental First Fund Presentation by Legislative Services Liaison
- Contract – Iowa State University – Wetland Performance Monitoring
- Contract - University Hygienic Laboratory – Ambient Water Quality Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2005
- Notice of Intended Action - Chapter 23 – NESHAP Update
- Final Rule - Air Quality Program Rules Chapter 20 – Addition of definitions for biodiesel fuel, diesel fuel, number 1 fuel oil and number 2 fuel oil.
- Adopted and Filed Emergency - Chapter 65 - Open Feedlot Regulations
- NOIA - Chapter 65 - Open Feedlot Regulations
- Proposed Rule – Chapter 65 – Technical Corrections to Table 1: Major Water Sources – Rivers and Streams
- Contract - Iowa Rural Water Association for CEU Training for Operators of Grade A Public Water Supplies
- Contract - Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities (IAMU) - Public Water Supply System-Specific Handbook
- Contract – Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities & Iowa Rural Water Association - CEU Training for Operators of Non-Grade A Small Public Water Supplies
- State Revolving Fund Program Review

- 2006 Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Intended Use Plan
- 2006 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan
- State of Iowa Public Drinking Water Program - 2004 Annual Compliance Report
- Proposed Rule - Chapter 61 - Water Quality Standards
- Notice of Intended Action – Chapter 61 – Water Quality Standards: Warm Water Stream Use Designation Assessment Protocol
- Referrals to the Attorney General
  - a) Travis Aldag (Ida Grove – Ida County) – animal feeding operation
  - a) David Kass (LeMars – Plymouth County) – animal feeding operation
  - b) Jim Dos (Waterloo – Black Hawk County) - animal feeding operation
  - c) SK Food & Gas, Inc. (Davenport – Scott County) – underground tanks
  - d) Boyer’s Sand & Rock, Inc. (Hawarden – Sioux County) – underground tanks
- Proposed Contested Case Decision – Wayne Staub
- Monthly Reports
- General Discussion
  - a) Mississippi River Parkway Commission Appointee
  - b) August EPC Meeting in Fairfield
- Items for next month's meeting
- Upcoming Meetings
- August 15, 2005

More information about the agenda items can be found on the DNR Web site under Commissions and Boards at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com).

The members of the commission are Darrell Hanson, chair, Manchester; Jerry Peckum, vice chair, Jefferson; Lisa Davis-Cook, secretary, West Des Moines; Francis Thicke, Fairfield; Donna Buell, Spirit Lake; Mary Gail Scott, Cedar Rapids; David Petty, Eldora; Suzanne Morrow, Storm Lake; and Henry Marquard, Muscatine. The director of the DNR is Jeff Vonk.

**For more information, contact Karen Grimes at (515) 281-5135.**

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## **DNR TO IMPROVE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR BUILDING ANIMAL CONFINEMENT OPERATIONS**

DES MOINES – A group including DNR staff, producers, engineers, consultants and others with an interest in building animal confinements will meet in July to improve the construction permitting process.

“We are looking at how to do things better, so that we can handle the workload,” said Wayne Farrand, supervisor of the DNR wastewater permits section. “This process improvement cannot change the laws or rules, but will help us evaluate how applications are processed and make it as efficient as possible.”

Construction permit applications for animal confinements are up this year. “We’ve received 160 applications in the first half of 2005, more than the 122 we received in the entire 2004 calendar year,” he said.

Farrand said that the DNR has had unprecedented success with other process improvement events, improving customer service; cutting steps and time to accomplish the same results.

The DNR will hold the event during the last week in July. The DNR has invited industry groups and others involved in the process to participate for the entire week.

A DNR engineer and geologist review each permit application, and a DNR environmental specialist inspects the potential site. According to Iowa law, the DNR must review, and approve or deny the permit within 60 days.

Construction permits are required for the building, modification or expansion of confinement feeding operations that use earthen basins and for those with 1,000 or more animal units that use concrete or steel storage for manure.

**For more information, contact Wayne Farrand at (515) 281-8877.**